

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

2
3
4
5

7

8
9
10
11
12

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Before discussing the substance of the Office's rejections, the
2 following discussion of Applicant's disclosure as well as the references to
3 Alexander, Cragun and Harrison is provided in an attempt to assist the
4 Office in appreciating the patentable distinctions between Applicant's
5 claimed subject matter and the cited references.

6 7 **Applicant's Disclosure**

8 Applicant's disclosure describes various viewing management
9 methods and systems for managing viewing of multiple live electronic
10 presentations. In one described embodiment, viewers are given an
11 opportunity to register their preferences for viewing certain events that can
12 occur within a plurality of different electronic presentations. The selected
13 electronic presentations are simultaneously monitored, during their
14 broadcast, while a viewer might be watching only one of the electronic
15 presentations. When one or more of the viewer-defined events is detected,
16 the viewer is notified that the event is taking place.

17 Applicant's disclosure instructs, starting on page 8, line 17, that in
18 one embodiment, each viewer is given an opportunity to register with an
19 encoder/server 14 (Fig. 1) for notifications concerning multiple live
20 electronic broadcasts. Registration takes place in the form of a viewer
21 request that is formulated by the viewer and passed on to the
22 encoder/server.

23 Once the viewer requests are received by the encoder/server 14, it
24 creates entries in a database 18 that it manages. Each of the entries
25 corresponds to a particular viewer's choices. As the sources 16 broadcast

1 their particular presentations, events are triggered and sent by the sources
2 to the encoder/server 14. *These triggered events describe some current*
3 *aspect of the electronic presentation.* For example, if Tiger Woods is
4 getting ready to tee off on the 16th hole, the event that might be triggered
5 by the source and sent to the encoder/server 14 might be “Woods tee off on
6 16th”. Once the encoder/server receives the triggered event, it conducts a
7 search of the database 18 to identify all of the viewers that have registered
8 for notification. Once the viewers are identified, individual notifications
9 are sent from the encoder/server 14 to the client viewing devices 12.

10 Consider now an exemplary database that facilitates searching and
11 notification of viewers. Specifically, Fig. 6 illustrates entries in an
12 exemplary live content database, such as database 30 (Fig. 4) generally at
13 210. The live content database 210 maintains current, up-to-the-minute
14 information on electronic presentations that are about to be or are being
15 broadcast by various sources. The live content information that is
16 managed in this database can come from, or be associated with many
17 sources that are monitored by the server 14. In the illustrated example,
18 three fields are provided, i.e. a presentation field 212, a topic field 214, and
19 an events field 216.

20 The presentation field 212 includes the name or title of the current
21 electronic presentation or program that is being broadcast by a source. In
22 the illustrated example, there are a number of different presentations or
23 programs that are being monitored. As these programs are being
24 broadcast, information is regularly received by the server 14 or encoder.
25 *This information can describe what is taking place during the broadcast.*

1 This information is used to continuously update the database so that
2 viewer notifications can be sent in a timely manner.

3 The topic field 214 identifies the various topics that are currently
4 being presented for the various programs. These topics can, but need not
5 necessarily change during a particular program. In the illustrated example,
6 weather is currently being presented on CNN. Similarly, gorillas are
7 currently being discussed on National Geographic Explorer.

8 The events field 216 identifies the current events that are being
9 presented on the various programs. For example, the Hurricane Buster is
10 the current event within the weather topic on CNN. Similarly, on Monday
11 Night Football, it is currently 2nd down and the Steelers have the ball on
12 their 40 yard line.

13 *The data or information in the topic field 214 and the events field*
14 *216 can be generated manually or automatically.* Manual generation
15 refers to an individual (e.g., a presentation author) creating the data. *For*
16 *example, the author may write a summary or a list of key words for the*
17 *presentation and provide them to server 14 (either directly or via an*
18 *encoder 26).*

19 Automatic generation refers to one of the components, such as an
20 encoder 26 or server 14, *using any of a variety of mechanisms to generate*
21 *data describing the presentation as the presentation occurs.*

22 Notice that the data or information that appears in the topic and
23 events fields 214, 216 does not comprise the *actual content* that can be
24 presented to a viewer. Rather, it comprises data that *describes* content that
25 is currently being broadcast.

The Alexander Reference

Alexander discloses electronic program guide (EPG) methods and systems that enable viewer interaction capabilities with the EPG. Alexander's methods and systems have a number of features that are not germane to the claimed subject matter. It appears that much of the processing that takes place to identify programs of interest for particular viewers concern the programs' titles. These program titles comprise content that is presented to the viewer.

For example, under the heading "Watch Scheduling Function" (column 8, starting at line 5), Alexander instructs as follows. In the Watch Scheduling Function, also referred to as the Watch Function, the viewer instructs the EPG what programs to add to the Watch List, which is the *list of programs* and related programming schedule information, for programs that the viewer want to watch.

Alexander further instructs in column 9, starting at line 65 that the EPG provides the viewer with the opportunity to select *program titles*, scheduled for delivery at future times, to watch. By selecting *program titles*, the viewer builds a "watch list."

In addition, as the Office notes, Alexander describes developing viewer profile information. See, e.g. column 28, starting at line 12. The viewer profile information is used to customize various aspects of the EPG. For example, in column 30, starting at around line 45, Alexander instructs that viewer profile information can be used to present, via the EPG, the user's favorite channels or to tune the television to a particular

1 channel during a time period when the user typically views that channel.
2 Alexander further goes on to describe how the viewer profile information
3 can be used in connection displaying particular types of advertisements for
4 the user. See, e.g. column 31, lines 9-24.

5 6 **The Cragun Reference**

7 Cragun describes a television presentation and editing system that
8 uses closed captioning text to locate items of interest. Cragun instructs
9 that a closed captioning decoder extracts a closed captioning digital text
10 stream from a television signal. A viewer specifies one or more keywords
11 to be used as search parameters and a digital processor executing a control
12 program scans the closed captioning digital text stream for words or
13 phrases matching the search parameters. The corresponding segment of the
14 television broadcast may then be displayed, edited or saved.

15 Cragun instructs that the closed captioning information is typically
16 a simplified version of the spoken words being transmitted by the audio
17 portion of the video signal. See, e.g. column 2, lines 26-37. Closed
18 captioning information is typically scrolled or presented to the viewer
19 across the bottom of a television.

20 21 **The Harrison Reference**

22 Harrison discloses a signal processing unit that analyzes textual
23 information decoded from a number of channels of a communication
24 signal to determine if channel contents of the channels are among channel
25 contents defined by so-called selection data. Harrison specifically

1 instructs that the textual information is derived from closed-captioned data
2 that is displayed (or presented to the user) on the television screen. See,
3 e.g. column 3, line 58 through column 4, line 5.

4 5 The Claims

6 **Claim 1** has been amended and recites a viewing management
7 method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations,
8 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 9
- 10 • simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic
11 presentations that are concurrently broadcast, *wherein said
12 monitoring comprises monitoring data that does not
13 comprise content that can be presented to a viewer*; and
 - 14 • automatically switching between displays of the two or more
15 electronic presentations based upon viewer-defined
16 preferences.

17 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
18 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter, citing to column 29,
19 lines 14-21, column 31, lines 25-52, and column 14, lines 58-67 for
20 support. These excerpts are set forth below for the convenience of the
21 Office:

22 The viewer profile information (data collected concerning,
23 and surrounding, a viewer's interaction with the television, the EPG
24 (including the recording and watching functions), the Internet, the
25 World Wide Web, and any other sources of information external to
the EPG, but through which the viewer interact)) can be sent to a
computer at the head end of television distribution for analysis, or
in the alternative, can be analyzed by the EPG.

Column 29, lines 14-21.

At the viewer's option, the EPG and Profile Program use the basic viewer profile data, the simple statistics collected about a particular viewer, Viewer Preferences and Viewer Characteristics to populate the Record List and/or the Watch List with programs that are likely to suit the viewer's interests. In one embodiment, searches for this type of information are conducted at a central computer at the head end. In another embodiment, queries are constructed and fed to an Internet search engine.

At the viewer's option, the EPG and Profile Program use the basic viewer profile data, the simple statistics collected about a particular viewer, Viewer Preferences and Viewer Characteristics to search for news stories that are likely to suit the viewer's interests. The problem that is solved is automatically (without an editorial staff) choosing news stories from multiple news feeds for display to a particular viewer in a news service. The content of the audio portion of the news broadcast is digitized and can be stored at a central computer, on one or more web sites, on DVD's (both video and audio recordings) local to the particular viewer's television system, or in memory at the particular viewer's television system. In addition to the audio content, video recordings of the news stories can also be stored.

The Viewer's Profile, and in some embodiments, specific input from the viewer, is then used to construct data-mining search queries to locate and deliver content that matches the viewer's profiled interests and/or the viewer's specific requests for information.

Column 31, lines 25-52.

Another example would be to notify the viewer that a program that may be of interest (e.g., as determined from analyzing the Viewer's Profile) will be broadcast on another channel within a certain amount of time, e.g., 2 minutes. The EPG could then ask if the viewer wants to view the program on the other channel. If the viewer indicates that the viewer wants to watch the program on the other channel, then the EPG will automatically tune to the other channel at the appropriate time.

Column 14, lines 58-67.

1 None of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or suggest
2 simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations that are
3 concurrently broadcast, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring data
4 *that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer*. Rather,
5 Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a basis to identify
6 programs of interest, data that comprises content that is presented to the
7 viewer—whether that content be the program’s title or textual content that
8 is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it would appear that
9 Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter of this claim.

10 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
11 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

12 **Claims 2-10** depend from claim 1 and are allowable as depending
13 from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their
14 own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 1,
15 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and applied by
16 the Office. In addition, given that Alexander does not anticipate this
17 claim, the rejections of claims 3 and 4 over the combination of Alexander
18 and Cragun, and claims 6 and 7 over the combination of Alexander and
19 Harrison are not seen to add anything of significance.

20 **Claim 11** has been amended and recites A viewing management
21 method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations,
22 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 23 • simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic
24 presentations that are concurrently broadcast, *wherein said*
25

1 *monitoring comprises monitoring data that does not*
2 *comprise content that can be presented to a viewer;* and

- 3 • automatically notifying a viewer when one or more of the
4 electronic presentations satisfies a viewer-defined
5 preference.

6 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
7 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter and refers to the rejection
8 of claim 1.

9 As noted above, none of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or
10 suggest simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations
11 that are concurrently broadcast, wherein the monitoring comprises
12 monitoring data *that does not comprise content that can be presented to a*
13 *viewer*. Rather, Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a
14 basis to identify programs of interest, data that comprises content that is
15 presented to the viewer—whether that content be the program's title or
16 textual content that is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it
17 would appear that Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter
18 of this claim.

19 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
20 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

21 **Claims 12-19** depend from claim 11 and are allowable as
22 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
23 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
24 claim 11, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
25 applied by the Office. In addition, given that Alexander does not
anticipate this claim, the rejections of claims 13 and 14 over the

1 combination of Alexander and Cragun, and claims 16 and 17 over the
2 combination of Alexander and Harrison are not seen to add anything of
3 significance.

4 **Claim 20** has been amended and recites one or more programmable
5 computers having instructions which, when executed by the one or more
6 computers implement a viewing management method for managing
7 viewing of multiple live electronic presentations comprising [added
8 language appears in bold italics]:

- 9
- 10 • sending at least one viewer request to an encoder, the viewer
11 request containing one or more viewer-defined preferences
12 that relate to one or more events that can occur in one or
13 more electronic presentations;
- 14 • evaluating, with the encoder, one or more electronic
15 presentations that are being broadcast to determine whether
16 any of the viewer-defined preferences are satisfied, *wherein*
17 *said evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that*
18 *does not comprise content that can be presented to a*
19 *viewer*; and
- 20 • if a viewer-defined preference is satisfied by one or more of
21 the electronic presentations, notifying a viewer that is
22 associated with the viewer-defined preference that was
23 satisfied.
- 24
- 25

19 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
20 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter.

21 None of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or suggest
22 evaluating, with an encoder, one or more electronic presentations that are
23 being broadcast to determine whether any of the viewer-defined
24 preferences are satisfied, wherein the evaluating comprises at least
25

1 *monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to*
2 *a viewer.*

3 Rather, Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a
4 basis to identify programs of interest, data that comprises content that is
5 presented to the viewer—whether that content be the program’s title or
6 textual content that is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it
7 would appear that Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter
8 of this claim.

9 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
10 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

11 **Claims 21-24** depend from claim 20 and are allowable as
12 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
13 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
14 claim 20, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
15 applied by the Office. In addition, given that Alexander does not
16 anticipate this claim, the rejections of claims 23 and 24 as being obvious
17 over Alexander fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

18 **Claim 25** has been amended and recites a viewing management
19 method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations,
20 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 21
- 22 • receiving one or more viewer requests from one or more
23 viewers, the viewer requests containing viewer-defined
24 preferences that are to be used to evaluate a plurality of
25 different live electronic presentations;
 - evaluating a plurality of live electronic presentations using
the viewer-defined preferences, *wherein said evaluating*

1 *comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise*
2 *content that can be presented to a viewer; and*

- 3 • in the event that one or more of the viewer-defined
4 preferences is satisfied, notifying at least one viewer that is
5 associated with the viewer-defined preference that is
6 satisfied.

7
8 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
9 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter.

10 None of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or suggest
11 evaluating a plurality of live electronic presentations using the viewer-
12 defined preferences, wherein the evaluating comprises at least *monitoring*
13 *data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a viewer.*

14 Rather, Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a
15 basis to identify programs of interest, data that comprises content that is
16 presented to the viewer—whether that content be the program's title or
17 textual content that is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it
18 would appear that Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter
19 of this claim.

20 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
21 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

22 **Claims 26-33** depend from claim 25 and are allowable as
23 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
24 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
25 claim 25, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
applied by the Office. In addition, given that Alexander does not
anticipate this claim, the rejection of claim 31 as being obvious over the

1 combination of Alexander and Cragun is not seen to add anything of
2 significance.

3 **Claim 34** has been amended and recites a viewing management
4 method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations,
5 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 6
- 7 • creating a viewer request that contains one or more viewer-
8 defined preferences for use in evaluating one or more live
9 electronic presentations;
- 10 • sending the viewer request to one or more computing
11 devices; and
- 12 • evaluating one or more electronic presentations with the one
13 or more computing devices in light of the one or more
14 viewer-defined preferences, *wherein said evaluating
15 comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise
16 content that can be presented to a viewer.*

13
14 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
15 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter.

16 None of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or suggest
17 evaluating one or more electronic presentations in light of one or more
18 viewer-defined preferences, wherein the evaluating comprises at least
19 *monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to*
20 *a viewer.*

21 Rather, Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a
22 basis to identify programs of interest, data that comprises content that is
23 presented to the viewer—whether that content be the program's title or
24 textual content that is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it
25

1 would appear that Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter
2 of this claim.

3 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
4 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

5 **Claims 35-40** depend from claim 34 and are allowable as
6 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
7 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
8 claim 34, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
9 applied by the Office. In addition, given that Alexander does not
10 anticipate this claim, the rejections of claims 38 and 39 as being obvious
11 over the combination of Alexander and Cragun is not seen to add anything
12 of significance.

13 **Claim 41** has been amended and recites an interactive network
14 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 15 • one or more client viewing devices; and
- 16 • one or more computing devices communicatively linked
- 17 with the one or more client viewing devices, the computing
- 18 devices being programmed to:
 - 19 ○ simultaneously monitor one or more electronic
 - 20 presentations that are concurrently broadcast ***by at***
 - 21 ***least monitoring data that does not comprise content***
 - 22 ***that can be presented to a viewer***; and
 - 23 ○ automatically send a notification to one or more of the
 - 24 client viewing devices when one or more of the
 - 25 electronic presentations satisfies one or more viewer-
 - defined preference that is defined by a viewer of the
 - one or more client viewing devices.

1 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
2 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter.

3 None of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or suggest
4 simultaneously monitoring one or more electronic presentations that are
5 concurrently broadcast *by at least monitoring data that does not comprise*
6 *content that can be presented to a viewer.*

7 Rather, Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a
8 basis to identify programs of interest, data that comprises content that is
9 presented to the viewer—whether that content be the program's title or
10 textual content that is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it
11 would appear that Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter
12 of this claim.

13 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
14 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

15 **Claims 42 and 43** depend from claim 41 and are allowable as
16 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
17 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
18 claim 41, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
19 applied by the Office.

20 **Claim 44** has been amended and recites a viewing management
21 method for managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations,
22 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 23 • monitoring viewing habits of one or more viewers of live
24 electronic presentations to determine particular events within
25

1 the electronic presentations that the viewers are likely to
2 want to view;

- 3 • *ascertaining from data that does not comprise content that*
4 *can be presented to a viewer, whether said one or more*
5 *viewers would likely want to view a particular event; and*
- 6 • notifying one or more viewers when it appears that an event
7 is occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer
8 is not viewing but would likely want to view.

9 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
10 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter.

11 None of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or suggest
12 *ascertaining from data that does not comprise content that can be*
13 *presented to a viewer, whether one or more viewers would likely want to*
14 *view a particular event.*

15 Rather, Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a
16 basis to identify programs of interest, data that comprises content that is
17 presented to the viewer—whether that content be the program's title or
18 textual content that is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it
19 would appear that Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter
20 of this claim.

21 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
22 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

23 **Claims 45-51** depend from claim 44 and are allowable as
24 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
25 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
claim 44, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
applied by the Office.

1 **Claim 52** has been amended and recites an interactive network
2 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 3 • one or more client viewing devices; and
- 4 • one or more computing devices communicatively linked
5 with the one or more client viewing devices, the computing
6 devices being programmed to:
 - 7 ○ monitor viewing habits of one or more viewers of live
8 electronic presentations to determine particular events
9 within the electronic presentations that the viewers are
10 likely to want to view;
 - 11 ○ ***ascertain from data that does not comprise content***
12 ***that can be presented to a viewer, whether said one***
13 ***or more viewers would likely want to view a***
14 ***particular event; and***
- 15 • notify one or more viewers when it appears that an event is
16 occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer is
17 not viewing but would likely want to view.

18
19 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
20 Alexander anticipates this claim's subject matter.

21 None of the excerpts cited by the Office disclose or suggest a
22 network that ***ascertains from data that does not comprise content that***
23 ***can be presented to a viewer, whether one or more viewers would likely***
24 ***want to view a particular event.***

25 Rather, Alexander discloses a system that appears to utilize, as a
basis to identify programs of interest, data that comprises content that is
presented to the viewer—whether that content be the program's title or
textual content that is visually displayed for viewers. In point of fact, it
would appear that Alexander teaches directly away from the subject matter
of this claim.

1 As such, Alexander does not anticipate or render obvious the
2 subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

3 **Claims 53 and 54** depend from claim 52 and are allowable as
4 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
5 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
6 claim 52, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
7 applied by the Office.

8 **Claim 55** has been amended and recites a user interface for use in
9 an interactive entertainment system comprising:

- 10 • a processor;
- 11 • an application executing on the processor and configured to
12 present plurality of fields, one of which displaying a number
13 of titles of programs that can be selected by a viewer,
14 another of which displaying indicia that can be selected to
15 define viewer preferences for simultaneously monitoring two
16 or more of the programs that are selected by the viewer,
17 *wherein said monitoring comprises monitoring at least data
18 that does not comprise content that can be presented to the
19 viewer*; and
- 20 • an input device operable to enable a user to select a
21 particular electronic presentation for continuous play
22 viewing.

23 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that its
24 subject matter is obvious in view of the combination of Alexander and
25 Harrison. Applicant disagrees.

Specifically, neither Alexander nor Harrison disclose or suggest
simultaneously monitoring two or more programs that are selected by a

1 viewer, *wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring at least data that*
2 *does not comprise content that can be presented to the viewer.*

3 Rather, the references either singly or in combination disclose
4 systems that appear to utilize, as a basis to identify programs of interest,
5 data that comprises content that is presented to the viewer—whether that
6 content be the program’s title or textual content that is visually displayed
7 for viewers. In point of fact, these references teach directly away from the
8 subject matter of this claim.

9 As such, the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of
10 obviousness. Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

11 **Claims 56 and 57** depend from claim 55 and are allowable as
12 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
13 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
14 claim 55, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references cited and
15 applied by the Office.

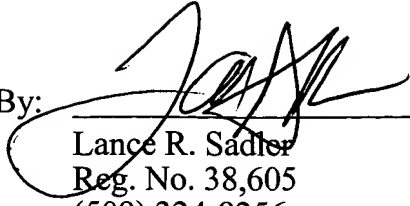
16 17 **Conclusion**

18 All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly,
19 Applicant requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the
20 Office’s next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a
21 Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for
22 the purpose of scheduling an interview.

23
24 Respectfully submitted,
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Dated: 10/8/04

By: 
Lance R. Sadler
Reg. No. 38,605
(509) 324-9256